

# The Road to Improving Medicare Benefits

**2006**

**JAN. 2006:  
PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE  
BEGINS FOR THOSE WHO ENROLL**

**2005**

**JAN. 2005: FINAL RULES PUBLISHED  
JAN. 2005: NEW PREVENTIVE BENEFITS  
AVAILABLE  
JUNE 2005: PEOPLE WITH LOW INCOMES  
CAN START APPLYING FOR EXTRA  
HELP WITH DRUG PLAN COSTS  
NOV. 2005: ENROLLMENT IN PRESCRIPTION  
DRUG BENEFIT PLANS BEGINS**

**2004**

**MAY 2004: DRUG DISCOUNT AVAILABLE  
AS TRANSITION STEP TO  
DRUG BENEFIT  
AUG. 2004: PROPOSED RULES FOR  
BENEFIT PUBLISHED  
AUG. 2004 - OCT. 2004:  
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON  
PROPOSED RULES**

**2003**

**DEC. 2003:  
MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT  
SIGNED INTO LAW**